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Letter dated 16 June 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Since my country was mentioned in your remarks made at the Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum on 16 June 2016 as well as during your meetings with Russian high-level officials, I would like to draw your attention to the following facts.

It is the Russian Federation that unleashed hybrid war against Ukraine by the illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014 and further military aggression in Donbas. These violations of the Charter of the United Nations and international law were condemned by the whole international community. The General Assembly, in its resolution 68/262, has underscored that the so-called referendum in Crimea has no validity and cannot form the basis for any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

It is the Russian Federation that continues to trigger the military activities in Donbas by supplying weapons, military forces and ammunition. These facts were confirmed by many international organizations, including the United Nations. According to the latest report on the human rights situation in Ukraine of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, "the conflict broke out in spring 2014 with the influx of foreign fighters, including citizens of the Russian Federation, ammunition and heavy weaponry into east Ukraine from across the border with the Russian Federation".

It is the Russian Federation that is continuously opposing the request of Ukraine to deploy a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Ukraine as well as the implementation of your noble idea of establishing a United Nations support office in Ukraine.

It is the Russian Federation that, according to the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, violates human rights in Crimea by illegal arrests, "the imposition of a new legal framework restrictive of civil liberties, abductions and disappearances, the shutting down of opposition media outlets and the silencing of dissenting voices through the initiation of

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repressive measures, including abusive criminal proceedings, targeting mainly pro-Ukrainian activists and Crimean Tatar institutions".

Finally, it is the Russian Federation that, by violation of the Memorandum on Security Assurances in Connection with Ukraine's Accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, signed in Budapest on 5 December 1994, and by violation of the territorial integrity of Ukraine, undermined the non-proliferation process in the whole world, as you yourself once noted. Moreover, it unilaterally denounced the agreement with Ukraine on the status and conditions of deployment of the Black Sea Fleet of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine of 28 May 1997 with a possible view to renewing, at this flourishing seaside resort, two base complexes for nuclear-weapon maintenance, which constitutes a serious challenge to the existing non-proliferation regime and must be tackled by the international community. We have also received evidence that the Russian Federation has deployed means of delivery of nuclear weapons and has been renovating relevant infrastructure on Ukrainian soil in Crimea.

Taking all this into account, we call upon you to take into consideration official United Nations documents, as well as continuous aggressive actions by the Russian Federation in Ukraine that caused more than 10,000 deaths and more than 1.8 million internally displaced persons in Ukraine, while evaluating the role of the Russian Federation in peacebuilding, peacekeeping, controlling the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and human rights protection.

We cannot accept your public praising of the "role of the Russian Federation in ending conflict in Ukraine" and would appreciate clarification of such a position.

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34 (a), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative